

1 Tim. 3:8-13—"Deacons: God-ordained Servants of the Church"

3 questions that must be answered biblically in order to have qualified deacons functioning properly in the church:

I. What is a deacon?

II. Why does the church need to know about deacons?

III. Who can be a deacon?

Eph. 4:12; Php. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:15; Titus 2:2; Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21

[Deacons] serve under the elders as helpers whose task is to relieve the elders of any [tasks that do not require direct shepherding, as portrayed in Acts 20 and 1 Pet. 5:1-3]...they are fully accountable to the elders who, under God preside over or manage all of the activities of the local congregation...[Ultimately] the deacon's work involves service: service to God, to the congregation, and to the elders...Of course, the deacons too may delegate...to persons within the congregation who have particular gifts for ministry... while maintaining their own responsibility to the elders. (1)

Through the deacons, the local church's activities [of service] are effectively organized and centralized...They help the poor, sick [and needy]...They counsel and guide people. They visit people in their homes. They relieve suffering. They comfort, protect and encourage people, and help to meet their needs. (2)

V.10—It is as if he is saying, 'We must not put a man in there with expectation', as if to say, 'Well, we will see how he works out,' for that is mocking God. He must first be tested. His respectable life and conduct testify that he qualifies to exercise that office. And then let us find out how he deals with others. Let us pay close attention to how he conducts his family, how he manages his wife and children. And then, if he is wise and prudent, let us acknowledge that he is suitable and capable of serving God in that position. That is the kind of man of [dignity Paul has in mind]. (3)

1 Jay Adams, *Shepherding God's Flock*, 352, 353.

2 Alexander Strauch, *Minister of Mercy: The New Testament Deacon*, 156.

3 John Calvin, *Sermons on the Acts of the Apostles*, 313.